

WEST Search History

[Hide Items](#)
[Restore](#)
[Clear](#)
[Cancel](#)

DATE: Wednesday, October 27, 2004

Hide?	<u>Set Name</u>	<u>Query</u>	<u>Hit Count</u>
	<i>DB=USPT,EPAB,JPAB,DWPI,TDBD; PLUR=YES; OP=OR</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	L30	l21 and L29	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	L29	l26 or l27 or L28	2476
<input type="checkbox"/>	L28	713/1,2,100.ccls.	1991
<input type="checkbox"/>	L27	714/36.ccls.	154
<input type="checkbox"/>	L26	710/10.ccls.	566
<input type="checkbox"/>	L25	l11 same plug\$4	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	L24	l11 same (direct\$4 near3 connect\$4 near3 port)	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	L23	l11 same (direct\$4 near3 connect\$4 near3 input near3 output)	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	L22	l11 same (short\$4 or (direct\$4 near2 connect\$4))	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	L21	l11 same power\$4	18
<input type="checkbox"/>	L20	l11 and (compar\$4 near3 version)	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	L19	l12 and (compar\$4 near3 version)	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	L18	l12 same (compar\$4 near3 version)	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	L17	L12 same signal\$4	11
<input type="checkbox"/>	L16	l11 and l8	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	L15	L12 same ((verif\$9 or check\$4) near4 signal\$4)	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	L14	L12 same ((verif\$9 or check\$4) near2 signal\$4)	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	L13	L12 same ((based or accord\$4 or respons\$4 or depend\$4) near5 (verif\$9 or check\$4) near2 signal\$4)	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	L12	(switch\$4 or alter\$4 or chang\$4) near2 boot near2 (device or source)	65
<input type="checkbox"/>	L11	(switch\$4 or alter\$4 or chang\$4) near5 boot near2 (device or source)	150
<input type="checkbox"/>	L10	L8 and boot\$4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	L9	L8 same boot\$4	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	L8	(normal adj operation) same (special adj operation)	185
<input type="checkbox"/>	L7	(special near2 boot near2 device)	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	L6	((select\$4 or choos\$4) near3 boot near3 device) same ((based or depend\$4 or respons\$4 or accord\$4) with ((mode or type or kind) near2 operation))	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	L5	(determin\$4 near3 boot near3 device) same ((based or depend\$4 or respons\$4 or accord\$4) with ((mode or type or kind) near2 operation))	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	L4	(determin\$4 near3 boot near3 device) with (based or depend\$4 or respons\$4 or accord\$4) with ((mode or type or kind) near2 operation)	0

<input type="checkbox"/>	L3	L1 same (switch\$4 or chang\$4 or alter\$4)	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	L2	L1 same mode	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	L1	(first adj boot adj device) same (second adj boot adj device)	6

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

[First Hit](#) [Fwd Refs](#)[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

Generate Collection

Print

L1: Entry 1 of 6

File: USPT

Sep 3, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6446203 B1

TITLE: Method and system for selecting from multiple boot code images to be loaded in a data processing system

Brief Summary Text (5):

Computer systems generally require some manner of boot procedure to achieve a functional state after a system reset, a system wake up, or a power-on event. The boot procedure typically includes executing a boot sequence stored on a nonvolatile memory of the system. The boot sequence is responsible for loading a boot image into system memory. Historically, a computer system's boot device was suitable for loading only a single boot image. With a conventionally designed machine, an end user who wishes to load a different boot image than the boot image stored on the system's boot device is required to obtain a second boot or reprogram the existing boot device, thereby losing the original boot image in the process. Manufacturers of conventionally designed systems must stock multiple types of boot devices to meet the various needs of their customers. Customers requiring a first type of boot image will require a first boot device while customers requiring a second type of boot image will require a second boot device thereby creating potential manufacturing concerns including order tracking and inventory management for the manufacturer. Moreover, the differing requirements of various customers prevents the manufacturer from being able to build, stock, and sell a single machine that can meet the needs of all of its customers (assuming that, aside from the boot image, the different customers have the same computing requirements). In addition, the number of users who require the option of being able to boot from multiple boot images is increasing. Such users face currently face the formidable task of reprogramming or physically replacing the boot device in their systems each time they need to switch images. Accordingly, for a number of reasons, it is would be highly desirable to offer a system capable of easily switching between multiple boot images.

[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

[First Hit](#) [Fwd Refs](#)[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

Generate Collection

Print

L10: Entry 3 of 5

File: USPT

Jun 8, 1993

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5218684 A

TITLE: Memory configuration system

Detailed Description Text (94):

The chip 16 implements two functions that the processor 10 does not use during normal operation but that may be useful for diagnostic purposes and special operations. The processor 10 can construct commands for the system bus 18 by writing certain chip 16 registers. The chip 16 also contains a special data mover that can move data over the system bus in octal word packets.

Detailed Description Text (121):

The standard 128 Kbyte ROM 14 provides 32K longword locations, but the total ROM space can accommodate 64K longwords. To completely fill the available boot ROM space, the 32K body of ROM code is replicated twice throughout this range of addresses.

Detailed Description Text (124):

On power-up or node reset, program control jumps to the first location, 2004 0000 hex, in boot ROM space, and the module 9 executes its initialization routine. Note that the initialization code resides in the I/O space at addresses 2004 0000 hex, through 2008 0000 hex.

Detailed Description Text (127):

VMB contains a boot driver that loads the secondary bootstrap program into memory and also writes a dump file to disk if the operating system detects a fatal error.

[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

[First Hit](#) [Fwd Refs](#)[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)**End of Result Set****Generate Collection****Print**

L20: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

Apr 22, 2003

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6553490 B1

TITLE: Computer system including local computer with capability to automatically update operating system or application program from network server

Detailed Description Text (3):

This is achieved by providing the local computer with two alternate methods of starting or booting up which can be controlled by software. For example, on open boot compatible SPARC machines, the boot-device parameter can be changed by software to alternate between booting off the network server or the hard drive. On IBM Compatible PCs, the active partition on the hard drive can be changed to boot from two different partitions of the hard drive.

Detailed Description Text (16):

The server 14 is configured such that the interrogation is routed to the identifier program 34, which includes a receiving code segment that receives and processes the interrogation, and an identification generating code segment that generates and sends the identifier to the local computer 12. The startup program 36 includes an identifying code segment which compares the version number, release date, etc. represented by the identifier with the corresponding data for the current program 24. If this data is the same, indicating that the current program 24 is the latest version of the operating system (the same as the program 32), the startup program 36 causes the functional components of the operating system to be loaded, and control transferred to the operating system (current program 24). The functionality of the identifier program 34 can be implemented using DHCP protocol.

[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

[First Hit](#) [Fwd Refs](#)[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

Generate Collection

Print

L25: Entry 3 of 4

File: USPT

Feb 7, 1995

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5388267 A

TITLE: Method and apparatus for updating and restoring system BIOS functions while maintaining BIOS integrity

Detailed Description Text (15):

To achieve automatic programming of the Flash memory from a plug-in ROM, the hardware must provide a switching mechanism that allows software to boot from one source and then toggle between sources. This switchability is also required to access EISA configuration from Flash if running BIOS out of a plug-in ROM.

[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

[First Hit](#) [Previous Doc](#) [Next Doc](#) [Go to Doc#](#)

End of Result Set



Generate Collection

Print

L25: Entry 4 of 4

File: JPAB

Jul 28, 2000

PUB-NO: JP02000207165A
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 2000207165 A
TITLE: DISPLAY SYSTEM FOR PERSONAL COMPUTER

PUBN-DATE: July 28, 2000

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

MUNETOMO, TADASHI

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

NEC CORP

APPL-NO: JP11006965

APPL-DATE: January 13, 1999

INT-CL (IPC): G06 F 3/153

ABSTRACT:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a display system for personal computers(PC), with which a primary adapter can be set/switched depending on the performance/function of a peripheral component interconnect(PCI) graphics adapter which are connected additionally to the PC or on application software to be used in a multi-monitor environment.

SOLUTION: This display system is provided with a system basic I/O system(BIOS) 3, capable of changing the assignment of priority of boot devices in the case of a plug-and-play configuration and an assignment table 4 for preserving the assignment of priority of the system BIOS 3. Corresponding to the setting of the system BIOS 3, the priority of boot devices in the assignment table 4 is changed.

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[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

[First Hit](#) [Fwd Refs](#)[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

Generate Collection

Print

L22: Entry 4 of 7

File: USPT

Nov 16, 1999

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5987605 A

TITLE: Methods and apparatus for dual-boot memory selection, update, and recovery in a programmable device

Abstract Text (1):

Methods and associated apparatus for using a dual-boot capable programmable device and for updating programmed information in such a dual-boot capable programmable device. The apparatus of the present invention includes a primary boot memory device, a secondary boot memory device, and means for selecting between the two memory devices for purposes of "booting" the dual-boot mode device. In particular, a reset switch of the apparatus of the present invention resets devices in the dual-boot capable programmable device and is coupled to a selection device. The selection device multiplexes signals from the two boot memory devices onto the corresponding bus signals of the dual-boot capable programmable device. When a "long" reset switch activation is sensed, the selection device selects a first of the two boot memory devices for coupling to the programmable device. A "short" activation of the reset switch selects the other boot memory device. The present invention also includes methods for updating the contents of the two boot memory devices so as to avoid an inoperable state encountered due to failure of the update process in a single boot memory device. In particular, both boot memory devices are updated in sequence. The second memory update is prevented if the first memory update is determined to have failed.

CLAIMS:

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

sensing a short activation of a reset switch associated with said primary boot memory device and with said secondary boot memory device; and

sensing a long activation of said reset switch.

17. A dual-boot capable device comprising:

a primary boot memory device;

a secondary boot memory device;

a switch;

a sensor coupled to said switch and operable to sense a first type of activation of said switch and further operable to sense a second type of activation of said switch; and

a selection circuit coupled to said sensor and to said primary boot memory device and to said secondary boot memory device, operable to select said primary boot memory device as a selected boot memory in response to sensing of a short activation of said switch and operable to select said secondary boot memory device as said selected boot memory in response to sensing of a long activation of said switch.

[First Hit](#) [Fwd Refs](#)[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

Generate Collection

Print

L17: Entry 3 of 11

File: USPT

Jul 3, 2001

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6255896 B1

TITLE: Method and apparatus for rapid initialization of charge pump circuits

CLAIMS:

22. The charge pump circuit of claim 17 further comprising:

a first control device connected between the boot node and the first corresponding voltage source, the first control device being switched on to connect the boot node to the first corresponding voltage source and being switched off to disconnect the boot node from the first corresponding voltage source, based upon the value of a first control signal.

[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

[First Hit](#) [Fwd Refs](#)[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

Generate Collection

Print

L30: Entry 1 of 4

File: USPT

Jun 22, 2004

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6754818 B1

TITLE: Method and system for bootstrapping from a different boot image when computer system is turned on or reset

Abstract Text (1):

A system and related method are described for booting from one of multiple boot images that includes a processor coupled to a main memory, a number of boot devices and a selector. The boot devices are used to store multiple copies of a boot image and are in communication with the processor through a controller. The selector is used to select a different boot device each time the system is turned on or reset. A set of instructions executed by the processor loads the boot image from one of the boot devices selected by the selector into the main memory. In one embodiment, the selector is embodied in the form of software instructions incorporated into or linked to a system BIOS program. In another embodiment, the selector is embodied in the form of software instructions incorporated into or linked to a SCSI BIOS program. In yet another embodiment, the selector is embodied in the form of a selector switch coupled between a controller and the boot devices, wherein when a power switch of the system is actuated, the selector switch connects a different boot device to a port designated as a boot device port.

Brief Summary Text (9):

In one embodiment, the selector is embodied in the form of software instructions incorporated into or linked to a system BIOS program. In another embodiment, the selector is embodied in the form of software instructions incorporated into or linked to a SCSI BIOS program. In yet another embodiment, the selector is embodied in the form of a selector switch coupled between a controller and the boot devices, wherein when a power switch of the system is actuated, the selector switch connects a different boot device to a port designated as a boot device port.

Current US Original Classification (1):

713/2

Current US Cross Reference Classification (1):

713/1

CLAIMS:

1. A system comprising: a processor; a main memory coupled to said processor; a plurality of boot devices, each boot device including a boot image; a controller coupled between said processor and said plurality of boot devices; a selector to automatically select a different boot device among said plurality of boot devices, when the system is turned on or reset; and a set of instructions executed by said processor to load the boot image from one of the boot devices selected by the selector into the main memory, wherein the selector is embodied in the form of a selector switch coupled between the controller and said plurality of boot devices, wherein each time a power switch of the system is actuated, the selector switch connects a different boot device to a port designated as a boot device port.

8. A method comprising: installing a copy of a boot image on each one of a plurality of boot devices of a computer system; automatically selecting one of said

plurality of boot devices, different from a boot device used during an immediately preceding boot attempt, when the computer system is powered up or reset; and loading a boot image into a system memory from said one of the boot devices selected, wherein selecting of one of the boot devices is accomplished using a selector switch coupled between a controller and said plurality of boot devices, wherein each time a power switch of the system is actuated, the selector switch connects a different boot device to a port designated as a boot device port.

11. A system for booting from multiple boot image sources, comprising: a plurality of boot devices, each boot device containing a copy of a boot image; selecting means for automatically selecting a different boot device among said plurality of boot devices, when the system is turned on or reset; and loading means for loading the boot image from one of the boot devices selected by the selecting means into a system memory, wherein the selecting means comprises a selector switch coupled between a controller and said plurality of boot devices, wherein when a power switch of the system is actuated, the selector switch connects a different boot device to a port designated as a boot device port.

16. A system comprising: a processor; a main memory coupled to said processor; a plurality of boot devices, each boot device including a boot image; a controller coupled between said processor and said plurality of boot devices; a selector to select a different boot device among said plurality of boot devices each time the system is turned on or reset; and a set of instructions executed by said processor to load the boot image from one of the boot devices selected by the selector into the main memory, wherein the selector is embodied in the form of a selector switch coupled between the controller and said plurality of boot devices, wherein each time a power switch of the system is actuated, the selector switch connects a different boot device to a port designated as a boot device port.

21. A system for booting from multiple boot image sources, comprising: a plurality of boot devices, each boot device containing a copy of a boot image; selecting means for selecting a different boot device among said plurality of boot devices each time the system is turned on or reset; loading means for loading the boot image from one of the boot devices selected by the selecting means into a system memory, wherein the loading means comprises a system basic input/output system (BIOS) program, wherein the selecting means comprises a selector switch coupled between a controller and said plurality of boot devices, wherein when a power switch of the system is actuated, the selector switch connects a different boot device to a port designated as a boot device port.

[Previous Doc](#)

[Next Doc](#)

[Go to Doc#](#)